Municipalities/District Boards. It does not contain any directive for grant of exemption to ex-Servicemen from payment of Municipal taxes.

Attack on BSF Hqr. by Extremists

4733. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent storming of the BSF headquarters in Srinagar on 21st March, 2000 by the extremists once again underscores the need to tighten security arrangements;

(b) whether there is a need to make a fresh appraisal of the threats that exist against the forces based in the valley;

(c) whether Government agree that a comprehensive policy must be evolved to protect our forces and sensitive defence establishments; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Approporiate security measures have been instituted in the wake of some incidents of attacks on establishments of security forces by the terrorist.

The maintenance and improvement of security arrangements at various levels of defence establishments is an on going process. Efforts in that direction continue to be made.

Helicopters to Hit Militants in Doda District

4734. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether helicopters armed with machine guns and rockets were pressed into operation to hit militants' hideouts in snow-clad mountains in Doda district on 24th March, 2000;

(b) if so, the results thereof in containing militancy in the area; and

(c) the measures proposed for continuous air surveillance in and J & K area to avoid massacres of the type held in Chathsingpura on 20th March, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Helicopters were used in Doda District on 25th March 2000, during a